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REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action dated August 24, 2004. By the present Amendment, the independent claims 1 and 12-14 have been amended to clarify the invention, while new claims 15-24 have been added to define further features of the invention.

Briefly, the present invention is directed to an improved display generating device that uses a trackable spotlight that is movable within an image to permit selection of objects within the image, rather than relying on a conventional cursor arrangement for selection. For example, referring to Fig. 2, one embodiment of such a trackable spotlight is shown with a diffused edge spotlight 8 that is movable within the web page 5. Through the use of this movable diffused edge spotlight 8, it is possible to select hypertext links 7 within the text 6. In particular, a focal point 9 of the spotlight 8 can be used to select a given hypertext link 7. As discussed with regard to the example of Fig. 5 discussed on page 5, line 20 et seq. of the specification, the spotlight 8 is navigable around the web page 5 to select the desired hyperlink 7.

The spotlight can be distinguished from the surrounding region in a number of different ways, as discussed, for example, on page 3. One example is that the spotlight region can be brighter than the surrounding region, as shown in Fig. 2. Regarding this, the intensity of the center 9 of the spotlight region can be set at a level 12, shown in Fig. 4, while the light intensity level of the surrounding region 7 can be set at a lower level 13. With regard to this, it is noted that the level 13 is still above zero.

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As a result, images within the surrounding darkened region 7 are still visible, as shown in the example of Fig. 2.

Alternatively, the spotlight region and the surrounding region can have different colors, as discussed on page 3, line 6 et seq. Another possibility is for the contrast against the spotlight region to be higher than the contrast of objects against the surrounding region. In any case, the use of the movable spotlight region for selection of objects within an image represents a complete departure from the conventional mouse cursor arrangement.

Reconsideration and allowance of the amended independent claims 1 and 12-14 over the cited reference to Strasnick (USP 5555354) relied on in the rejection of the claims is respectfully requested. By the present amendment, each of the independent claims has been amended to define that the trackable spotlight is movable about the image. This is clearly supported, for example, by page 5, line 20 et seq. of the specification which specifically states:

"Referring to Fig. 5, the spotlight 8 is navigated around the web page 5 using the arrow keys 4a, 4b, 4c, 4d."

As such, it is respectfully submitted that this feature of a trackable spotlight which is movable about the image is completely different than the arrangement as used in Strasnick, as discussed below.

Specifically, unlike the present claimed invention, Strasnick uses a conventional mouse cursor arrangement for moving about an image to select an object, not a movable spotlight. Although Strasnick does teach the use of the spotlight, the use of the spotlight in Strasnick is limited to spotlighting an object only

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after it has been selected by a mouse/cursor arrangement. This is clear from column 10, line 61 et seq. of Strasnick which states:

"As a navigator traverses the information landscape the mouse cursor moves over various data blocks and cells. Preferable, the present invention highlights these data blocks and cells and displays the name of a selected block or cell in the upper left hand corner of the selected data object as the navigator passes over it. Activating the left mouse button while a data object is highlighted selects the highlighted data object. When a cell is selected, the system brightens or highlights the selected cell and the connector line leading to it. A spotlight 430 may also shine down on the selected cell from a point above the landscape, as illustrated in Figs. 4A and 4B."

As such, Strasnick fails to teach or suggest the claimed feature of a trackable spotlight movable about the image. After selection with the mouse cursor, the spotlight in Strasnick would remain stationary. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of amended independent claims 1 and 12-14, as well as their dependent claims 2-11, over Strasnick is respectfully requested.

Reconsideration and allowance of the newly submitted dependent claims 15-24 is also respectfully requested. These claims more specifically define the features of the trackable spotlight and its use in selecting objects. For example, claim 15 defines that the spotlight region has a focal point (such as indicated by the numeral 9 in Figs. 2 and 3). Fig. 16 defines that this focal point is used to select an object, while claim 17 defines that the focal point is used to select a hypertext link. This is shown, for example, in the example of Fig. 5, and is discussed on page 5 of the specification. As discussed above, since Strasnick only uses a spotlight after the selection of an object has been made by a mouse/cursor arrangement, there is no suggestion whatsoever for using a focal point of a spotlight to select an object or a hypertext link, as defined by these dependent claims 16 and 17.

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New dependent claim 18 defines that the device is configured to receive directional input and move the spotlight in dependence upon the directional input. Again, since Strasnick only teaches the use of a spotlight after the object has been selected, there is no suggestion for moving the spotlight in dependence upon a directional input. Therefore, it is urged that this dependent claim 18 also further distinguishes over Strasnick.

New dependent claims 19 and 20 define the relationship between the spotlight region and the surrounding region in terms of relative brightness and the pixel intensity of the spotlight region decreasing radially to a base level for the surroundings. It is respectfully submitted that no such details concerning the brightness and pixel intensity relationship between the spotlight region and the surrounding regions is at all suggested by Strasnick. Therefore, reconsideration and allowance of these dependent claims is also respectfully requested.

Finally, dependent claims 21 through 24 specifically define further features of the present invention that a plurality of objects are provided within the image, and that the trackable spotlight is movable within the image to permit selection of one of the objects of the image that falls within the spotlight region. As pointed out several times above, since Strasnick does the original selection of an object by using a mouse/cursor arrangement, and only provides the use of a spotlight after a selection has already been made, there is no suggestion whatsoever in Strasnick of using a trackable spotlight to move about the image to permit selection of one of the objects of the image. Accordingly, particular consideration and allowance of these dependent claims 21 through 24 is also respectfully requested.

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If the Examiner believes that there are any other points which may be clarified or otherwise disposed of either by telephone discussion or by personal interview, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Docket No. 1076.41016X00), and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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